

0027

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552406

2 MR. KENNY: Thank you. I'm Clifford Kenny,
3 and I'm from Shoshone, California. And I wish to
4 address the issues of the 200-acre parking lot that is
5 to be paved with asphalt and the open pool that would
6 be used for cooling the spent nuclear waste. Number
7 2321. North portal, operating area figure 2-5. I
8 think I'll skip some of that.

9 I wish to address the issue of recognizing
10 the validity of our government's treaties also with
11 native people. I think that's an issue that has been
12 ignored. The native people have been protesting the
13 development of the Yucca Mountain Site because there
14 has been no consensual agreement.

15 On the issue of flooding, a recent USGS study
16 of storm runoff from the test site and the Yucca
17 Mountain Site area indicates immediate flow into our
18 Amargosa River from the moderate to heavy rains. The
19 Yucca Mountain Site is the headwaters of the Amargosa
20 River.

21 Nonresidents do not understand that although
22 this is a very dry region, rainfall can and does call
23 severe flooding periodically. The DEIS and the

552406

24 supplement do not address the critical issue of
25 flooding adequately. The EIS documents, to date, do
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1 not make sufficient cognizance of the local knowledge
2 of floods and earthquakes in the general area. The
3 following are verbatim accounts from some older
4 residents.

5 Martha Becker, the co-owner of the Amargosa
6 Opera House at Death Valley, whom I'm sure everyone
7 should know about, has told of a flood that occurred
8 before her purchase of the theater in the 1960s. She
9 acquired the property as it was after the flood, and
10 she reported that the high watermark from the flood on
11 the wall inside the theater was three feet above ground
12 level. The flow from such a flood would follow the
13 Amargosa Valley and the Amargosa River to the eventual
14 destination in the flat at Bad Water, Death Valley,
15 traversing three counties, Nevada's Nye County, and
16 California's Inyo and San Bernardino counties, and from
17 there it goes on then into Death Valley.

18 Now, with the flooding that has occurred, can
19 you imagine the vast area that would be contaminated
20 with nuclear waste should a flood of this proportion

552406

21 occur again? Have the engineers tried to obtain
22 verification regarding such events, and if not, why
23 not?

24 Two retired residents of Tecopa, Shoshone
25 area, have recalled at least three occasions in the
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1 last 30 years in which a deluge forced the complete
2 closing of all roads leading into these communities.
3 In one instance, Shoshone was isolated for over a week
4 because of the flood and washed out roads. There was
5 three or four inches of water on the floor of the
6 general store in Shoshone. Emergency services was
7 required to fly in dry ice in order to preserve the
8 necessary food supplies for the community. Our next
9 door neighbor is a long-time resident of Shoshone, and
10 former park ranger, and can describe such events.

11 No one related to this project has talked to
12 him, and why not? A member of the Board of Directors
13 of the Friends of Tecopa, Hot Springs, formerly
14 operated a transport by which he delivered supplies
15 locally. He recounts that on a number of occasions,
16 Highway 127 was impassable where it crosses the
17 Amargosa River. I'm sure most people here are familiar

552406

18 with Highway 127.

19 MR. ROLLIE BYRAM: Don't read that. Anybody
20 that reads don't know what they're talking about.

21 MR. KENNY: This floodwater originates in the
22 Yucca Mountain area and joins all other water that's
23 collected along the river's path. Out of state
24 professional engineers should know that floods of
25 catastrophic proportions do occur in this area, and may
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1 very well have been unreported because of the
2 remoteness and the isolation of the area. The dangers
3 to local residents and environment from radiological
4 contamination could be severe and long lasting.

5 And on the issue of earthquakes, the
6 engineers recognize the hazards of moderate earthquake,
7 but they fail to recognize the possibility of a quake
8 of the magnitude of the disastrous one that occurred in
9 the Owens Valley in 1872. Hundreds of people died
10 there, and practically all structures were destroyed,
11 including the Inyo County courthouse. John Muir,
12 standing on the valley floor of Yosemite when the quake
13 struck, said words to the effect that it was like
14 observing creation's beginning.

552406

15 MODERATOR BROWN: You have just about a
16 minute left, if you can wrap up.

17 MR. KENNY: Okay. Such natural phenomenon do
18 occur in this region, and the consequences can be
19 beyond the control of mere man. They cannot be
20 discounted merely because the Yucca Mountain Repository
21 planners have no direct knowledge of such events.
22 Forecasting contingencies for 10,000 years presumes
23 knowledge and control of events beyond what we possess.
24 It also presumes that all succeeding generations and
25 cultures for many thousands of years will be capable of

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1 dealing with all the possible contingencies that we
2 have imposed on them. If this project goes through, if
3 DOE proceeds with further planning, construction, and
4 in so doing, we strongly recommend exploration of the
5 local knowledge of natural phenomena and disasters that
6 have occurred and surely will continue. Thank you.